Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /073 W

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R 271832Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: RETURN TO NICARAGUA OF FELIPE MANTICA

REF: MANAGUA 2661

1. FELIPE MANTICA, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF "THE TWELVE" RETURNED TO NICARAGUA ON 26 JUNE. MANTICA, WHO IS STILL SUBJECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ARREST (REFTEL), VOLUNTARILY DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM "THE TWELVE" APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO AS A RESULT OF "REFLECTION" WHICH LED TO A CONVICTION THAT, AS A CHRISTIAN, IT WAS NOT HIS PLACE TO CRITICIZE SOMOZA.

2. THE 27 JUNE NOVEDADES GAVE NO INDICATION IF THE GON PLANS TO MOVE AGAINST MANTICA IN CONJUNCTION WITH PENDING CRIMINAL CHARGES. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS NO INDICATION, AS YET,IF MANTICA WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ATTEMPT TO REFUTE THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM, ALTHOUGH ONE CURRENT OF SPECULATION HOLDS TO THIS THEORY. A RADIO REPORT ON JUNE 26 CITED THE GON PROSECUTOR AS SAYING HE WOULD NOT PRESS THE CHARGES AGAINST THE 12, BUT RRATHER WOULD FILE THEM AWAY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. COMMENT: BY DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM THE 12, MANTICA LOST APPEAL AS AN OPPOSITION FOCAL POINT--AN APPEAL HE HAD ONLY AS PART OF THE GROUP. HOWEVER, HIS RETURN NOW WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP UP A FOCUS ON THE RETURN OF "THE TWELVE"AS A POSSIBLE SPARKING OF A GENERAL AND MAJOR GON-OPPOSITION CONFRONTATION. SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: RETURN TO NICARAGUA OF FELIPE MANTICA

TAGS: PINS, NU, (MANTICA, FELIPE)

To: STATE Type: TE

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